

**US DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON**

SUMMARY OF PRO BONO REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

This is a summary of the procedures in the District of Oregon to obtain *pro bono* counsel in an effort to provide better judicial access for *pro se* litigants. More detailed information, including the Pro Bono Representation Program procedures and associated forms, are located at: <http://ord.uscourts.gov>.

The court maintains a list of law firms and individual lawyers willing to review cases filed by *pro se* litigants for possible *pro bono* representation. Under the new procedures, the court may appoint volunteer counsel for the limited purpose of reviewing a *pro se* litigant's claims or defenses, for a specific purpose such as mediation or settlement, or for all purposes. The appointed attorney / law firm will then be added to the court's docket as counsel of record for that case.

The appointed attorney / law firm has 12 days from the entry of the Order Appointing Pro Bono Counsel in which to inform the court of a conflict of interest. If no conflict exists, then counsel appointed for the limited purpose of review has another 30 days (for a total of 42 days) to review the court file, conduct an appropriate investigation of the *pro se* litigant's claims or defenses, and advise the court whether he or she accepts or declines further representation. The court expects appointed counsel to accept representation if the *pro se* litigant has a factual and legal basis to prevail on any claim or defense. If the appointed counsel declines representation, then he or she will be withdrawn as counsel of record for that case, and the *pro se* litigant will proceed without counsel.

The amount of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses available from the Attorney Admission Fund for each case is \$3,000.

Effective January 1, 2010, attorneys appointed under the District of Oregon Pro Bono program must report the number of estimated hours spent on *pro bono* cases annually by using the hourly reporting form available on the Court's website. The reporting form can be submitted at the conclusion of each *pro bono* appointment or one form may be submitted for all *pro bono* work performed in the calendar year by the following January 10th (i.e.: work performed between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 must be reported by January 10, 2011).

Attorneys or law firms wishing to be added to the Pro Bono Representation Panel should contact Nicole Munoz, Pro Bono Administrator, at (503) 326-8014, or via e-mail at: Nicole_Munoz@ord.uscourts.gov.